(c) whether Government will drop the proposal to declare one year crop holiday since Karnataka has been growing superior quality of tobacco being used for export?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Tobacco Board has fixed a crop size for FCV tobacco for the 2000-2001 season in Karnataka.

Special Economic Zones to Promote Exports

3073 . SHRI ANANTA SETHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to establish special economic zones to promote exports;

(b) if so, the States where these Economic Zones are proposed to be set up; and

(c) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) In the Export and Import Policy (1997—2002) incorporating amendments made upto 31st March, 2000, Government has announced a Policy for setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the country. There is no proposal to set up any new SEZ by the Central Government. However, SEZs may be set up in the public, private, joint sector or by the State Governments. Some of the existing Export Processing Zones are also proposed to be converted into SEZs. Government have also approved setting up of EPZ/SEZ in the joint sector at Nanguneri in Tamil Nadu and Positra in Gujarat on the basis of proposals received from Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited and Gujarat Positra Port Infrastructure Limited, respectively.

Changes in Labour Laws

3074 . SHRI KAPIL SIBAL :

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to bring to some changes in labour laws for the units set up in special economic zones;

(b) if so, what are these changes and what is the need to bring these changes; and

(c) whether Government have consulted the labour laws experts in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Setting up of Special Economic Zones

3075. SHRI GAYA SINGH :

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN :

SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to set up Special Economic Zones (SEZs) as has been mentioned in the new Exim Policy for the year 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the concessions proposed to be offered to the units in these zones; and

(c) by when these zones are proposed to be operationalised?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir. In the Export and Import Policy (1997— 2002) incorporating amendments made upto 31st March, 2000, the Government has announced a Policy for setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the country.

(b) The units in the SEZs will be a net foreign exchange earner but they shall not be subjected to any pre-determined value addition or minimum export performance. The entitlements to units in SEZs include exemption from Customs/Excise duty on capital goods, raw materials, etc., reimbursement in Central Sales Tax paid on purchases from outside the State, 100% foreign equity participation and an upgraded infrastructure.